

REMARKS

Claims 57-112 are now present in this application, with new claims 57-112 being added by the present Preliminary Amendment and original claims 1-56 being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. It should be noted that the changes between the original claims and the new claims are non-narrowing changes, made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations. For example, the new claims have been broadened; reference characters have been removed; European phrases such as "characterized in that" have been removed; multiple dependencies have been removed; and the claims are now in a more recognizable U.S. form. Again, all changes are non-narrowing and have been made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the allowability of each of claims 57-112 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for

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any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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